



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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## **California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Hosts Domestic Violence Awareness Forum**

*Part of October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events*

SACRAMENTO, CA – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson and the Secretary of State's Safe at Home Program will host a Domestic Violence Awareness Forum as part of a daylong series of events to increase the public's awareness of the services available to victims of domestic violence. Sponsored jointly with the California State Interagency Domestic Violence Collaborative Committee, the forum will address the prevention, awareness and resources available for the victims and survivors of Domestic Violence.

The forum, to be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 will be preceded by a kick-off event at 11am on the West Steps of the State Capitol, which will feature guest speakers, live entertainment, exhibits and refreshments. The Domestic Violence Awareness Forum – ***"Building a Safer California,"*** will be held at 2pm in the Auditorium of the Secretary of State's Office, 1500 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA. Secretary McPherson will kick off the event and introduce the panel of speakers and participants. A reception in the Secretary of State's Office Courtyard will follow the forum at 5 pm. The day will conclude with a candlelight vigil "Remember My Name" at 7pm on the West Steps of the Capitol.

"Domestic Violence is a very serious issue," said Secretary McPherson, "Victims and survivors need to feel safe living their lives. This will be a great opportunity for our Safe at Home Program and the agencies committed to providing assistance to those in need to come together and collaborate on how to improve upon our already extensive efforts in this area."

The California State Interagency Domestic Violence Collaborative Committee includes representatives from the California Commission on the Status of Women, California Department of Education, Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Department of Health Services, Office of Women's Health, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Justice, Department of Mental Health, Department of Social Service Cal Works, Office of Emergency Services, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Office of the Secretary of State, Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, California Chamber of Commerce and the California Partnership Against Domestic Violence.

For more information or ideas on how you can become involved, please contact Safe at Home at 877-322-5227.